
Title: The Concept of Love

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This book is a response
to Ekoth's book, On
Love.

Most people live their
lives unaware of the
damage simply living
does
to their soul. The natural
state is Oblivion, all
souls
united as one. While
caught in the living world,
souls are separated and
seek to fill the empty
place they feel deep
within them. Many call
this need love.

Love is a powerful
emotion which can become
an intense weakness if
not properly handled.

Unfortunately, the
majority of society has
built love up into a thing
to be worshipped. Love
worship has caused
intense repression
problems in certain
societies such as Sanctus
where it is regarded as
the ultimate goal of life,
and must be expressed
through ridiculous rituals.

Ekoth's book, On Love,
goes far more into detail
with the problem with
love and society.

What Ekoth's book does
not go into is that the
problem with love is the
result of a much more
serious issue, a misguided
society. Love in many
aspects is treated
similarly as hate in
lightbringer societies, two
aspects that are core to

the human animal. Their society focuses on treating these aspects as sin that need to be hidden away and not discussed. One cannot simply enjoy being with another and filling their lust needs, one must slowly build up a relationship filled with tiny meaningless goals. The first time holding the other, the first kiss, eventually leading up to marriage. The entire system builds up unrealistic expectations about love and the perfect married life. Love worship. While the slow buildup of ritualistic behavior is certainly repressive, after marriage comes further repression. The unrealistic promises of love will often fall unfulfilled, and the couple will focus on repressing their displeasure and pretending to the world that they are leading the ideal life love gives. The happy housewife and dutiful husband, both caught in an endless declining spiral and awaiting their deaths.

The solution to strengthening ourselves is to accept that love is part of the living condition, just as hate is. The anti-virtue Despise teaches that we must accept hate is natural and should be experienced, and as with all of the anti-virtues it requires discipline and control to practice without having it become a weakness. Love is the same. To overcome it we must accept that we will feel it, and that when we do to not let it influence our decisions.

Love, just like rage, envy,
or arrogance, can be a
deadly weakness if one
cannot control it. Simply
pretending it does not
exist or that one does
not feel it doesn't train
oneself to deal with it
should someone penetrate
their mental barriers.

Because of how
ill-prepared lightbringer
societies are at handling
love and their emotions,
the most important
reason why love should
not be entirely scorned is
it is a powerful tool to
be used. Even the Umbran
Order of the Ebon Skull
understood this and had a
path dedicated to those
who specialized in
influencing others using
love and lust as their
tools. While we may have
stronger mental defenses
against love due to our
apathetic nature towards
outsiders, we need to
ensure that all of us can
control our bodies as
honed tools so our
enemies never have the
upper hand:

We cannot let them
pander to our egos and
make us arrogant.

We cannot let them rob
us and make us regret.

We cannot let their
numbers fill us with fear.

And, we cannot let
them try and corrupt our
faith, luring us away with
false love.